



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

# DIGEST

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## Patriotic display

These are a few of the patriotic items Prill Neagles has on display within what was previously a drab, nondescript hallway at the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix. Among items on display are authentic 48- and 49-star flags. The decorations within the hallway leading to the Criminal Information Services Section were coordinated by Neagles to honor Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July and Sept. 11.

## Flags bring patriotic life to DPS hallway

Thanks to the hard work of a long-time DPS employee, a unique and beautiful patriotic display now exists within what was previously a nondescript, lifeless hallway within the DPS headquarters building in Phoenix.

The colorful display, created by Criminal History Records Specialist Prill Neagles, is located in the long hallway that leads into the agency's Criminal Information Services Section.

The previously-drab hallway now features seven large American flags tactfully combined with a variety of other patriotic displays and decorations, including dozens of small red, white and blue stars that dangle

proudly from the ceiling.

Other significant items in the hallway include a small bucket filled with miniature American flags and a picturesque tree dressed with an eye-catching string of stars.

Portions of the hallway walls are also decorated with small stars that will soon be enhanced by a series of illuminating red, white and blue "flag lights."

The various decorative elements in the area, all coordinated by Neagles, work closely with each other to give people walking through the hallway a real sense of patriotic

## Lawmakers okay pay raises for both sworns, civilians

A \$1,000 pay raise for civilian employees at DPS was among many budgetary items approved by the Arizona State Legislature as part of the Department's \$158.2 million general operating budget for fiscal year 2005, an 8.1-percent increase over the previous fiscal year.

Before adjourning May 26, the Legislature also put its stamp of approval on a piece of legislation that provides a \$4.3 million appropriation for sworn pay adjustments. The bill allows for the Department to determine how the allocation will be distributed.

For the Department and several DPS-related employee organizations such as the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 32 and the Latino Peace Officers Association, it was a bittersweet victory.

They had hoped for much more after they joined forces in seeking a parity compensation package of about \$15 million which they believed would place all sworn DPS officers within market value of the top five law enforcement agencies in the state.

Such wasn't the case. So with the appropriation they received, the Department developed a plan that was presented to the Law Enforcement Merit System Council.

The Council approved the proposal during its late June meeting. As it stands, all sworn officers at DPS will receive at least a \$1,000 raise with the sergeant II salaries targeted for the biggest increase – a \$5,148 boost, from \$60,662 to \$65,810.

[\(See related story on page 3\)](#)

"This \$4.3 million was far short of our ultimate goal," said Phil Case, DPS comptroller. "With the continued support of employees and employee groups, the Department will continue to pursue additional

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## From Director Dennis Garrett's

# Vantage Point

With Arizona's economy apparently on the rebound, we were optimistic that the Legislature, during this past legislative session, would agree to substantially fund our officer parity compensation proposal.

To receive slightly more than 25 percent of what we requested certainly was disappointing after all the hard work and effort put forth by the Department, its employees and the various DPS-related employee groups.

Although it was a frustrating experience, there is a bright side as those of us involved in the process believe we now have the proverbial foot in the door for future

considerations. We also embrace the premise that the majority of legislators not only wanted to give our officers more, but all state employees as well. However, most of these lawmakers felt the money just wasn't there to take care of everybody on the state payroll.

At the executive staff level, this isn't the end of our dedicated commitment of trying to move our sworn personnel to a salary level commensurate to the top law enforcement agencies in Arizona. After some fine tuning, we also will be going forth with the recommendations developed by our Classification and Compensation Working Group which recently completed its report.

There's no telling how long this will take, but with the fortitude this agency has shown throughout this process, that day most likely will arrive sooner than later.

Regardless of our frustrations, as employees of the Department, it is our responsibility to continue putting forth the best effort possible in going about our jobs. Anything less is unacceptable and would be a step backwards in our concentrated effort to improve salary structures at DPS.

## Various new laws to impact way DPS goes about its business

A bill expanding Arizona's sex offenders community notification program was among many pieces of legislation approved by the Arizona State Legislature that should impact the way the Department does business.

The sex offenders notification legislation should heavily effect the Department's Sex Offender Compliance unit in that the unit will have to expand its Web site informational base to include the names of at least 6,000 more Arizona residents who were convicted of sex crimes prior to 1996, said Lt. Jack Lane of the Director's Office who serves as the Department's legislative liaison.

Prior to Senate Bill (SB) 1291, those convicted of sex crimes before June 1, 1996 were not required to register as sex offenders. Currently, the [DPS Web site](#) provides information on about 2,000 sex offenders.

- Along with this new statute, other legislative actions of prime interest to the Department include:

- Modification of disability limitations within the Public Safety Retirement System;
- Reestablishment of the DUI Abatement Council;
- Relaxation of parking restrictions imposed by homeowners as associations involving emergency-type vehicles;
- Extension of operating hours for establishments serving alcoholic beverages;
- Expansion of laws relating to the impersonation of police officers;
- Disclosure of information to employees prior to a disciplinary hearing;
- Adding illegal immigrants to concealed weapons restrictions; and,
- Amending Arizona's money-laundering laws.

By law, the effective date for these statutes is Aug. 25, 90 days after adjournment of the legislature.

The sex offender notification law requires local jurisdictions to complete risk assessments on pre 1996 offenders," Lane said. "Once this is done, they will relay that risk assessment to the Sex Offender Compliance unit who will post it and other pertinent information on

its Web site."

House Bill (HB) 2081 should prove beneficial to law enforcement officers who receive a pension for accidental disabilities.

"This is a pretty significant change in that prior to this bill, sworn retirees receiving pensions for accidental disabilities were limited in the amount of money they could earn annually. This bill pretty much wipes out such restrictions. This should provide nice relief to some of our sworns who have had to retire because of an accidental disability. Now they can work as much as they desire and still receive the pension to which they are entitled without experiencing a reduction in benefits if they earn too much."

The re-establishment of the DUI Abatement Council (HB2184) corrected an oversight that allowed the council to expire on Dec. 31, 2003. During last year's regular session, legislators inadvertently failed to take action in approving an extension for the council which administers grant monies for a variety of DUI projects ranging from special details to Intoxilyzers.

While a victim of Arizona's sunset law which disbanded the

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## State's new health plan for retirees requires actual enrollment

It's called "positive enrollment."

Translated it means, you positively must enroll if you are a DPS retiree and want health insurance offered by the state Department of Administration (DOA) to continue after Sept. 30.

That's the message being emphasized by Larry Thompson, a retired DPS lieutenant colonel who serves as vice chairman for the Coalition of DPS Retirees.

"I can't emphasize it enough that all retirees participating in the DOA Saguaro Insurance Plan (currently with Cigna Insurance) must enroll to continue receiving health insurance," Thompson said, adding that enrollment begins Aug. 2 and ends Sept. 10. "The Saguaro program that covers most retirees is being replaced by DOA and will not exist after Sept. 30."

In its place, Thompson said, DOA has introduced a new "benefit options" package which is part of the "self insurance" program adopted by DOA and supported by Gov. Janet Napolitano and the state Legislature.

The new insurance program becomes effective Oct. 1 and will continue through Sept. 30, 2005.

Thompson said retirees should have received a newsletter from DOA during the first week of June. The newsletter had red letters on the front stating "Important News About Open Enrollment."

"If the retiree has received this newsletter, it means that their address is current and that they should receive a second newsletter (mailed by June 28) and an open enrollment packet mailed by DOA later in the process," Thompson said. "If a retiree hasn't received either newsletter, it is imperative for the retiree to contact DOA and provide the correct address."

The DOA call center can be reached at 1-602-542-5008 or toll free at 1-800-304-3687 (option 1). DOA also has a Web site that provides pertinent information – [www.benefitoptions.az.gov/retiree/](http://www.benefitoptions.az.gov/retiree/).

DOA also has an e-mail address designed specifically for open enrollment questions – [oequestions@ad.state.az.us](mailto:oequestions@ad.state.az.us).

District offices within DPS will be available to help retirees through the open enrollment process, Thompson said.

"It will be a paperless process and can be completed on line through a computer or by phone," Thompson said. "DPS person-

nel at district offices and state headquarters will be able to assist with the technical aspects of enrollment, but will not advise as to the selection of coverage, companies and doctors."

Thompson said the Department also plans to have some computers available during open enrollment.

Specific times were not available, but Bev Fuller of Human Resources said HR is hoping to have computers available during normal business hours. She said they also were looking into having on an intermittent basis some computers available weekends and after hours.

## Lt. Lane optimistic about future sworn salary packages

Although somewhat disappointed with the Arizona State Legislature's decision to not fully fund DPS' \$15 million officer pay parity proposal, the agency believes some positive steps were taken by the lawmakers that may lead to the approval of more substantial compensation packages next year.

Consideration of compensation issues by state legislators resulted in the passing of a bill approving a \$4.3 million appropriation for the Department's sworn pay parity plan. Another piece of legislation within the state budget passed by the Legislature creates a 19-person committee to study compensation issues for state employees, including civilian personnel at DPS.

"We are thankful that the Legislature views compensation for DPS sworns as a serious problem," said Lt. Jack Lane, of the Director's Office who serves as DPS' liaison to the state Legislature. "Even though we didn't get nearly what we requested, the Legislature did give us significantly more money for compensation than they did for most state agencies."

Lane remains optimistic that the Legislature will continue to review sworn salaries as well as compensation for the Department's civilian employees.

"We are taking baby steps right now," the DPS lieutenant said concerning pay for sworns. "We started during the 2003 session and were successful in moving the issue forward. This year we got some money, but not what we needed. Next year, we will continue our efforts to get our sworns closer to parity. The director and the governor's office are committed to this five-year plan and I don't foresee this changing."

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### Fingerprint Demonstration

Elodia Frangipane (right), daughter of Criminal Intelligence Analyst Tony Frangipane, receives a fingerprinting demonstration from Latent Print Examiner John Jolly (left) during "Bring Your Child to Work Day" at DPS June 17. More than 40 children of departmental employees participated in the day-long event in Phoenix. The children were treated to a variety of DPS-related displays, demonstrations and educational presentations by agency employees.

## DPS Explorers post takes third in Las Vegas competition

During the June 5<sup>th</sup> weekend, DPS's Explorer Post 403 captured third place in the prestigious "Ex-Con" (Explorers Conference) competition, one of the Southwest's most competitive events for youth interested in law enforcement.

The team's strong performance at the Las Vegas event, which featured more than 20 other Explorer teams, came directly on the heels of the group's success at another significant Explorer competition two months earlier in Bullhead City when the DPS team captured fifth place among 52 teams from throughout the Southwest.

Both strong performances by the DPS team, featuring young men and women 14 to 20 years in age, captured considerable attention at the Department and sparked renewed interest and appreciation in the agency's Explorer program.

Officer Rudy Buck, advisor of the DPS Explorers, said the team's third-place finish during the weekend competition can be attributed to strong performances in each of the competition's nine individual events. The DPS team captured first places in two of the competition's individual events, including "bicycle patrol" and "narcotics interdiction vehicle stop" events.

Buck said the DPS team also made strong showings in several other individual competitions, especially the "unknown trouble call" and the "crime scene search" events.

Six Explorers from the Globe and Phoenix-areas comprised the DPS team. On the team from Phoenix were Shaun Enrico, Chris Smith and Joe Edwards while team members from Globe included Caleb Hale, Kimberly Brown and Gabe Valenzuela.

Beginning in January, Buck and fellow team advisor Officer Mike Ruiz held training for the group each Monday night to help prepare for the event.

The two officers instructed the Explorers on various aspects of law enforcement work that would need to be mastered at the competition. The officers specifically focused on teaching the Explorers approach, contact, officer safety, team work, communication and decision making.

Training was conducted at the DPS compound in Phoenix using hallways, classrooms and role players to give "life" to the various scenarios.

When the team returned from the competition with several large trophies, they were congratulated by many at DPS for casting the agency in such a positive public light.

DPS Commander Sam Fragala of the agency's Human Resources Bureau issued a formal congratulatory memorandum to the

DPS Explorer team on June 10 through the agency's Electronic Message System (EMS).

In his address to the Explorers, Fragala reminded DPS employees who have teenagers to keep in mind that the DPS Explorer post can be an excellent pathway into DPS career fields. Fragala said that teens who join the Explorer program will learn commit-

ment, teamwork, honor and share traveling and competition adventures with their peers.

Further, Fragala said that teens will have positive personal characteristics modeled and reinforced for later manifestation into their adult lives.

Those interested in learning more about the program or wishing to express or provide support, contact Buck at extension 2717.



### Hardware

Pictured above are the large, imposing trophies the DPS Explorer Post received for their recent performance in the prestigious "Ex-Con" (Explorer Conference) competition in Las Vegas. The DPS team captured third place overall in the event that featured more than 20 other teams from throughout the Southwest. The DPS group captured first place in two of the competitions individual events, including the "bicycle patrol" event and the "narcotics interdiction vehicle stop" event.

## Gillette-Stroud tops commander's list

Following a testing process conducted in mid June, Lt. Pennie Gillette-Stroud of Tucson sits atop the promotional list for commander.

Second on the list of 20 is Lt. David Denlinger while Lt. Dean Nyhart is third. The promotional list expires Dec. 18, 2005, according to Commander Coy Johnston, business manager of the Law Enforcement Merit Sys-

tem Council.

Other lieutenants making the commanders' promotional list (in order) were: Jack Lane, Dan Wells, Tim Lane, Brian Wilcox, Larry Scarber, Debra Howard, Larry Burns, James McGuffin, Laurel Norris, Dennis Young, Thomas Woodward, Andres Vasquez, Jeffery Stanhope, Iven Wooten, Bernard Gazdzik, Ken Barton and James Gerard.

## S.R. 90 traffic stop provides fireworks

It probably ended as a quiet July 4 for this foursome.

While patrolling S.R. 90 near Benson May 29, DPS Highway Patrol Officer Samuel Miller stopped a van for a traffic violation.

During the Memorial Day weekend stop, Miller learned that the four occupants, who

were returning to California, had purchased more than 1,500 pounds of consumer-grade fireworks in New Mexico.

Miller cited and released the four but not before officers assigned to the Department's Explosive Ordnance Detail took custody of the fireworks.

## Benson Sgt. Steve Harris retires after nearly 32 years of service

Sgt. Steve Harris, an award-winning supervisor from District 9, retired from DPS on June 30 after nearly 32 years of dedicated service with the agency.

Harris, a Tucson native raised in Morenci, began his career with DPS on Aug. 1, 1972.

His first assignment with the agency upon graduation from the law enforcement academy brought him to Benson. After patrolling highways in the Benson area for about 10 years, Harris received a promotion to sergeant and transferred to Casa Grande where he stayed for about three years before moving to Sierra Vista.

In October 1992, Harris returned to Benson where he remained for the duration of his career.

Harris, who has four children and seven grandchildren, said the most memorable moments of his career at DPS took place in Morenci in the early 1980s during the copper workers' strike against the Phelps Dodge Corporation.

Harris was part of a large group of DPS officers assigned to Morenci to help maintain law and order there during what turned out to be a very tense labor dispute.

The tensions in Morenci during the volatile copper workers' strike were compounded for Harris because he grew up in the small eastern Arizona community.

"Because I was raised in Morenci, I personally knew several of the people who were striking in addition to several others who were crossing the picket lines to go to work," Harris said. "It was a very tense, stressful situation for everyone involved. The strikers hated the police presence in their town and those who were crossing the line to go to work felt as if we were not doing enough to protect them."

Harris said the most rewarding moments of his career took place in the late 1980s when he had an opportunity to hand-pick a squad of officers and help train them to combat various types of criminal activity, primarily drug related, that was escalating on some of the highways in District 9.

The squad he eventually selected and quickly trained became a Violator Directed Patrol Team that ended up making a significant impact upon those using the region's highways to conduct their illicit business.

Within just a year of operation, the squad seized several thousand pounds of marijuana as well as significant quantities of drug money, stolen vehicles and weapons.

"I really enjoyed working with that squad of officers because they were very dedicated to their jobs and made a tremendous impact,"

Harris said.

The squad's impressive work was recognized throughout the state and Harris was given an Achievement in Supervision award from the Arizona Administrator's Association for his work with the group of officers.

In the end, however, Harris said he enjoyed working with all of the squads he had over the years and added that he will truly miss the unique character of each squad.

Harris, who received a variety of different service awards during his career at DPS, first thought about pursuing a career in law enforcement when he was just a teenager.

It was as a teenager that he also seized the opportunity to go on a "ride-along" with a deputy from the Greenlee County Sheriff's Office. During the "ride-along," the deputy arrested a man for driving a vehicle while extremely intoxicated.

While watching the deputy arrest the "drunk," Harris said he was struck by what a positive impact police officers could have on the community by using their authority to remove dangerous drivers from the road.

After the "ride-along," Harris set his eyes on becoming a police officer and never

looked back.

As he completed his career, Harris had no regrets about going into law enforcement.

"It was a great career and I will miss it," Harris said. "I felt like I did my part to make a positive impact on the community. But it's time to move on and enjoy a new part of my life."

Harris said he hopes to enjoy retirement to the very fullest.

In fact, he has no set retirement plans other than taking it easy and doing some traveling with his wife, Pat. The couple recently purchased a fifth-wheel to help them enjoy their travels.

The couple is also purchasing a piece of property in the higher elevations of New Mexico with hopes of replacing summer heat with enjoyable cool mountain breezes.

As he embarks on an exciting new chapter in his life, Harris said he is probably not going to miss working at DPS nearly as much as he will miss his friends from the agency.

"The people with whom I have worked with at DPS over the years have been truly fantastic and I will really miss all of the camaraderie," Harris said.

## DPS participates in seat belt campaign

For about a month beginning in mid-May, DPS Highway Patrol officers throughout Arizona increased their enforcement of the state's safety belt laws as part of the nationwide Click It or Ticket Mobilization program.

By participating in the event, DPS joined more than 12,000 law enforcement agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico who were part of the simultaneous enforcement effort. Those who were caught failing to buckle up during the event were issued tickets or warnings.

The goal within Arizona, which placed a special emphasis on teens and young adults, was to boost the state's 86-percent safety belt use rate and reduce fatalities, said DPS Sgt. Mark Remsey.

A very large portion of DPS' involvement in the national Click It or Ticket Mobilization took place in the Phoenix-area on the Loop 101 freeway between 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Scottsdale Road.

Forty paid overtime shifts, funded by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, were available to DPS officers willing to work the enforcement project.

The overtime shifts were worked in addition to regular patrol shifts that were also more focused on increased enforcement of safety belt laws.

By the time the nationwide enforcement effort officially ended June 6, DPS Highway Patrol officers who worked the special detail in the Phoenix area had issued 269 citations. More than 100 of the citations were issued for seat belt violations.

"Because seat belt violations are difficult to enforce in Arizona due to the state's secondary violation safety belt laws, the number of seat belt tickets written by DPS officers during this detail took a great deal of effort," Remsey said.

Secondary safety belt laws in Arizona require officers to first observe another driving offense before they may stop a vehicle and issue a safety belt citation.

Although conducting seat belt details in states with secondary safety belt laws can be challenging, Remsey said he considers DPS' involvement in the recent Click It or Ticket Mobilization a great success.

"Any type of high-visibility enforcement saves lives, especially when conducted on a national level," Remsey said. "Our goal at DPS was to make sure everyone on the road, whether passenger or driver, knows they are more at risk, not just of getting a ticket, but for suffering a serious injury or death, if they don't buckle up."



## Two arrested after authorities find them in possession of stolen AHPA checks

Two DPS detectives assigned to GITEM assisted officers from the Phoenix Police Department May 14 in questioning a young woman who tried to cash a check stolen from the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona (AHPA).

The suspect was arrested by Phoenix Police earlier in the day while trying to cash the stolen draft at a check cashing store near 43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Indian School Road in Phoenix.

During their investigation, detectives discovered that a second female was involved who possessed additional stolen AHPA checks. Detectives soon learned that the second suspect attempted to make several expensive purchases via the Internet using the stolen AHPA checks while trying to pass herself off as DPS Officer Andy Swann.

Swann, whose name and personal information was eventually found on the second suspect's computer, is the current AHPA president.

The two suspects were of immense interest to DPS and Phoenix investigators because they believed the two could provide critical information regarding the theft of an AHPA minivan. The missing minivan had been stolen about a week prior to the check-cashing incident from the driveway of Swann's Tempe home. The theft occurred sometime in the night and was discovered by Swann the following morning as he left for work.

When the van was stolen, it contained papers listing some of Swann's personal information as well as a book of checks used by the AHPA to make purchases. Swann canceled the AHPA bank accounts linked to the checks as soon as he realized the vehicle had been stolen.

No significant leads had been developed during attempts to recover the minivan until about a week after it was stolen when an AHPA official received a telephone call from a clerk at a check-cashing business in Phoenix. The clerk called the the Association to confirm the validity of a \$200 AHPA check that a store customer was, at the exact moment of the phone call, trying to cash.

The AHPA representative quickly realized that the check in question came from the stolen van and she instructed the store clerk to immediately call police. Phoenix police officers arrived at the store before the suspect could leave and arrested her.

Upon being informed of the situation, two DPS GITEM detectives arrived at the store

shortly thereafter.

The DPS detectives and police officers interrogated the woman about the checks which eventually led them to the second suspect who was taken into custody by DPS officers and brought to a location where she could be interviewed. Officers obtained enough information during the interrogation to obtain a warrant to search the second suspect's apartment.

This search produced additional links to stolen AHPA checks as well as evidence captured from a computer at the residence. Files on the computer revealed that one of the suspects had been attempting to use Swann's identity to make online purchases.

It was also learned that the second suspect had attempted to tear up several remaining AHPA checks at her residence and flush them down a toilet. The second suspect attempted to quickly discard the checks in such a manner shortly after seeing her partner get arrested at the check cashing store.

Although evidence gathered during the search warrant linked the suspects to the checks, no evidence was found indicating the whereabouts of the stolen minivan. In fact, throughout their various interviews with authorities, the women never provided names of additional suspects or other information that could lead to the recovery of the minivan.

Both women were arrested and charged with a variety of fraud-related crimes associated with the stolen checks, including tampering with evidence.

## Services held for Rudy Mellmann

Rudolf P. "Rudy" Mellmann, who was one of the first in the United States to employ computers in his work as a polygraph examiner, passed away June 3 at Banner Thunderbird Hospital in Glendale.

Services for the 54-year-old former DPS polygraph examiner, who died from complications associated with multiple sclerosis, were June 7 at Phoenix Memorial Mortuary Chapel.

Mr. Mellmann came to DPS in 1988 and worked eight years before departing in 1996. Prior to DPS, the Rome, N.Y., native was employed as a polygraph examiner with Tom Ezell and Associates. During those 12 years, he administered 8,500 polygraph examinations.

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J.T. HAYNES

## Retiree J.T. Haynes dies in Phoenix

A memorial service was conducted June 15 for retired Motor Carrier Supervisor J.T. Haynes, 66, who passed away June 11 following a lengthy illness.

The McConnellsville, Ohio, native began his career with the Department in March 1982. He retired from DPS 17 years later in December 1999.

While with the Department, Supervisor Haynes, badge number 3169, received a recognition award from the Highway Patrol in 1999 for his work in commercial vehicle safety.

In 1990, he began developing the Truck Operator Proficiency System (TOPS) in an effort to educate cross-country truckers about the dangers of driver's fatigue.

The mock truck cab he had constructed made its debut in 1992. It was housed in a motor home and was a frequent visitor at Arizona's various ports of entry. TOPS was capable of determining the degree of driver fatigue and how professional truck drivers reacted when fatigued.

In 1990, Supervisor Haynes was recognized by the Transportation Safety Institute for teaching a series of vehicle and roadside inspection courses which were attended by more than 1,300 state commercial vehicle investigators from throughout the country.

Prior to his career at the Department, he was employed by the state Corporation Commission and before that he was a deputy with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. He also served with the U.S. Air Force as a military policeman.

Outside the Department, Supervisor Haynes was a 32<sup>nd</sup>-degree Mason and a mem-

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## Sting operation takes care of home-invading 'DEA' agents

If it wasn't such serious business, one could almost chuckle at how law enforcement, led by the Chandler Police Department and the Pima County-Tucson Metropolitan Counter Narcotics Alliance (CNA), hoodwinked a gang of thugs posing as Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) agents.

Because of the extensive planning involved, Sgt. Mark Morlock describes it as one of the most challenging cases he has ever worked during his 20-year career with DPS. The end result, however, was quite satisfying as his squad played a major role in the arrest of 11 suspects whose method of operation had them impersonating DEA agents during their "raids" of various drug stash houses.

"There was a great deal of planning on both sides, including the suspects" said Morlock after the three-month undercover operation culminated May 12 with a successful sting operation at a home located on the remote outskirts of the Gilbert city limits.

Morlock, supervisor of the Tucson-based CNA Major Violator Unit which consists of officers from DPS, the Pima County Sheriff's Office and the FBI, said the case began to develop when Chandler police detectives came across information about an organization whose members were boasting and "claiming that they were doing home invasions disguised as law enforcement officers and ripping off large amounts of money and narcotics from drug dealers," Morlock said.

"They said they had been doing this for about four years, mostly in Maricopa and Pima counties. After much discussion and investigation, and knowing all we really had were their admissions which could have simply been boasts, we decided the best way to catch these people was to set up a sting operation with two detectives acting as drug dealers.

"All we really had were their admissions. You aren't going to get drug dealers reporting these things to police. On top of that, these types of individuals don't make good witnesses when they testify in court."

A DPS detective along with a Chandler police detective began working the case undercover passing along information about how they expected to have a large amount of cash and drugs on hand at the Gilbert "stash house" in the very near future.

"So after weeks and weeks of planning, we set up a house in the Gilbert area," Morlock said. "We outfitted the house, found by Chandler police and loaned to us by a private citizen, giving it the appearance of a stash house.

"We parked numerous cars outside. Inside, we had a TV going with empty pizza and chicken boxes, beer cans and dirty clothes scattered about. It was extremely realistic. Fact is, when we conducted our final walk through, I had to convince myself that this really was 'our' house."

Prior to the arrival of the suspected crooks, Morlock said officers placed a large amount of money and at least 1,000 pounds of marijuana inside the home.

"We also spent considerable time outfitting the home with some very elaborate electronic surveillance equipment," the DPS sergeant said. "We had cameras in every room. We really wanted to be able to document this not only for court purposes, but also from the operational side as well because this had become a tactical challenge."

During the daylight hours of May 12, the two law enforcement undercover officers provided the suspects with the final piece of bait, informing them that the drugs and money had arrived at the Gilbert location.

"These people were very well organized," Morlock said. "They did everything a SWAT team would prior to entry. They rented a hotel room, where they had their briefings and used the room as a staging area. They also did a drive by on the residence before returning to the hotel and dressing out.

"All had some form of police identification," the DPS sergeant said. "They were wearing generic stuff, black or camouflaged pants, black tee shirts.

"They had a collection of arm bands and hats that said 'Police,' 'Sheriff,' 'Detective.' No DPS materials. But, they did look like a rag-tag narcotics squad doing a search warrant."

The DPS supervisor said two of the five vehicles were outfitted with undercover police red/blue emergency lights.

"Upon arrival at the residence that night with their police lights going, the suspects exited their cars, approached the residence, knocked on the door and yelled, 'DEA, search warrants!' Armed with rifles and pistols, they then entered the home."

What they found wasn't expected – a well-lighted empty house.

Once the suspects were inside, a Chandler SWAT unit and a DPS Special Operations Unit, commanded by Lt. Andy Vasquez, moved into position and took control of the tactical aspects of the operation.

"There were no officers inside the home, nothing inside except what we placed in there," Morlock said.

What the suspects also did not know

was that the area also was swarming with law enforcement officers who were supported by armored vehicles, snipers and helicopters.

"After the suspects entered the house, we were actually able to see where they were and their positions," Morlock said.

At that point, the speakers were activated issuing a surround call-out of "This is the police. You are under arrest. Put your weapons down."

Morlock said one suspect fled on foot while two others tried to flee in a vehicle. The three were quickly apprehended leaving six suspects in the house. Within a short period of time, five came out voluntarily while the sixth had to be coaxed, Morlock said.

"Within 10 minutes, we had all nine suspects in custody," Morlock said. "No shots were fired although we did deploy some less-lethal munitions such as tear gas."

Later, Morlock said officers arrested two more suspects in Tucson who were involved in the planning, but didn't participate in the Gilbert "raid." Search warrants served later at the residences proved officers with several other valuable documents, Morlock said.

In late May, all 11 were indicted by a Maricopa County grand jury. All but two are from the Tucson area and all but one remain in the Maricopa County jail system facing bonds of at least \$450,000 each. The 11<sup>th</sup> was a parole violator and was returned to a state prison facility.

"Later, we were able to develop some evidence that ties this group some other home invasions that occurred in Pima County," Morlock said. "We believe they may have participated in at least 10 home invasions. We are still in the process of developing our information concerning other possible crimes related to this group."

Morlock said after the operation was completed, he talked with various law enforcement agencies from throughout the country and learned no one had attempted anything similar to this sting operation.

"Some thought it took nerve to do this, but we knew it could be safely accomplished if we controlled the environment," the DPS sergeant explained. "We went into this operation determined to be in complete control of the situation. You couldn't ask for a smoother operation."

"Of major concern to us in these types of home invasions is that many times, these crooks will frequently target the wrong home. Because they use force and are well armed, it is quite possible that some one could be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



## The War on Drugs

This suspected drug runner and his escort are facing some serious jail time after being arrested by DPS Highway Patrol Officer Greg Kocis June 12.

Kocis said he stopped the first vehicle for speeding on U.S. 191, some 15 miles west of Willcox. After making the stop and seeing indications of drug trafficking, Kocis had a second vehicle stopped which resulted in the seizure of 310 pounds of marijuana, a 1999 Jeep Cherokee, a 1994 Mercury Marquis, four cellular phones and a two-way radio.

\*\*\*

A stop for speeding on I-40 in East Flagstaff resulted in the arrest of a suspect and the seizure of 48 pounds of cocaine.

Highway Patrol Officer Anthony Gerard said he also seized \$640 in cash during the June 11 traffic stop. The vehicle was returned to a rental agency.

\*\*\*

Dark windows made it a night of gloom for this motorist.

While driving through a major intersection in central Tucson the night of June 10, DPS Canine Officer Keith Duckett initiated a traffic stop on a 1998 Ford pickup truck for excessive window tint.

During the stop, Duckett asked and received permission to search the vehicle. Duckett's canine partner, Rico, alerted on several commercially-packaged boxes. When opened, Duckett and DPS Detectives Jeffrey Lane and Javier Garayzar found 711 pounds of marijuana.

Along with the contraband, the officers seized the pickup while arresting the driver.

\*\*\*

A June 9 traffic stop on I-17 near Camp Verde led DPS Canine Officer John McFarland to 10 pounds of methamphetamine.

During the mid-morning traffic stop, McFarland also seized a 1999 Plymouth along with \$2,300 in cash.

\*\*\*

A traffic violation June 9 ended in the discovery and seizure of 533 pounds of marijuana.

Canine Officer Robert Telles told the Duty Office that he made the stop on S.R. 83 about 35 miles southeast of Tucson. Telles said after arresting two suspects, he had the vehicle returned to the appropriate rental agency.

\*\*\*

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Kevin

McNichols might not be into astrology, but the Aerostars must have been appropriately lined up in early June.

First came the baby load, then the mother load for the Nogales-based Highway Patrol officer as back-to-back traffic stops produced 426 pounds of marijuana.

The first bust began to unfold at about 9 p.m. June 1 on S.R. 82 near Sonoita when he stopped a 1987 Ford Aerostar van. After arresting the driver for providing false information, McNichols began inventory on the woman's vehicle. Inside the vehicle, he found two pounds of marijuana and a personal-use amount of methamphetamine.

After completing the "baby" bust, McNichols was heading for his home near Nogales at about 3:45 a.m. June 2 when he saw two vehicles enter I-19 from a retirement community near Amado.

Believing most retirees are in bed at that early-morning hour, McNichols decided to take a closer look at one of the vehicles. He then stopped a 1994 Aerostar for an illegible temporary tag. As the vehicle came to a stop, McNichols said the driver and passenger jumped from the van, abandoning its cargo, some 424 pounds of marijuana.

\*\*\*

An I-17 traffic stop near Cordes Junction May 28 led DPS Highway Patrol Officer Joseph Proffer to the arrest of two suspects on drug-related charges.

During the course of the stop, Proffer found 366 pounds of marijuana inside the 1992 Ford van. Besides the van and contraband, Proffer also seized \$742 in cash.

\*\*\*

This motorist probably would have been better off leaving the money in a safe instead of in the trunk of his car.

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Robert Richardson told the Duty Office that he seized \$144,970 in U.S. currency he found in the trunk of the vehicle following a May 30 traffic stop in Lake Havasu. Richardson said he also seized the vehicle after finding the money.

\*\*\*

Although the motorist's flight for freedom was successful, DPS Canine Officer Keith Duckett was able to impound a 2001 GMC pickup truck and almost 800 pounds of marijuana.

Duckett told the Duty Office that he stopped the vehicle on I-10 about 20 miles east of Tucson. As the vehicle came to rest, the occupant bailed and ran into the desert, leaving behind the contraband and truck.

Tucson Air Rescue aided in the May 27 search for the suspect but to no avail.

\*\*\*

DPS Highway Patrol Officer Raymond Ballesteros had a similar Duckett-type experience with a 2001 Dodge pickup truck on May 18 about 20 miles west of Tucson on S.R. 86.

Ballesteros said he attempted to stop the pickup for speeding when the driver accelerated before stopping. After stopping the vehicle, the three occupants headed for the desert on foot leaving behind the truck and 700 pounds of marijuana.

A search of the area by Ballesteros and other officers failed to produce any of the three suspects.



AARON CONTRERAS

## Digest to feature children of DPS kin in U.S. military

During the past year and a half, the *Digest* has periodically provided updates about the status of DPS employees who have been called into active military duty.

Recently, an employee who reads the *Digest* regularly asked if the publication could also provide updates about the sons and daughters of DPS employees who are on active military duty.

The *Digest* staff hopes to fulfill the request through the assistance of DPS employees.

Specifically, if an employee has a son or daughter on active military duty in the Middle East, we ask that they contact the *Digest* and provide the publication with the name of their son or daughter on active military duty, the military branch to which the son or daughter serves, and their current assignment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



## DPS officer teaches reserve officers about law enforcement

Eric Anspach has seen the Department from several different angles.

Although he has only been a DPS officer since 2001, his career with the Department actually started in 1991, a few months after graduating from Tempe's Corona del Sol High School, when he accepted a position as an officer trainee in Sierra Vista.

"Danny Ham was my sergeant and I'll always remember him as being very tough, but very fair," Anspach said.

That was Anspach's first taste of the DPS lifestyle. But it was enough to whet his appetite and lead him back into the fold after beginning his law enforcement career as a reserve in 1999 with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO).

Two years later, he "lateralled" into DPS as an officer, setting the stage for another historical first at DPS. Last August, Anspach became the first advisor from DPS while Reserve Officer Richard Becker became the first recruit training officer from DPS to participate in the 28-year history of the Glendale Community College (GCC) Law Enforcement Academy, a signature program that graduates more than 30 students a year while serving the staffing needs of at least 14 area police and correctional agencies.

Not only were they the first DPS advisors at the GCC academy, both Anspach, who is assigned to the Highway Patrol Metro West district, and Becker, who is assigned to the Highway Patrol Metro Central district, also are graduates of the west valley law enforcement program.

"I was the class advisor which is equivalent to class sergeant," Anspach said, "while Rich served as one of my recruit training officers along with a detective from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office and an officer from the El Mirage Police Department."

Anspach said the August through May schedule, combined with his Highway Patrol responsibilities, proved to be quite demanding as each week classes were conducted on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday along with a sprinkling of Saturdays.

"The students have it tougher," Anspach said. "Not only did they have the academy, they also were students at the school. They had a dual requirement to meet. Some also had full-time jobs away from school and the academy. Some also had families.

"All had to maintain at least a 'C' average in order to graduate from GCC. But if they completed all course work successfully, they earned a certificate from GCC and became AZ POST certified."

The foundation of Anspach's indoctrina-

tion into the teaching aspect of the program began in 1999 upon his completion of GCC academy. That allowed him to become a reserve officer with MCSO and later a full-time deputy.

His advisor, Pete Gutierrez of the Goodyear Police Department, liked what he saw in Anspach and asked him to be an advisor. After Anspach received approval from his sergeant, Larry Lizarraga, and his lieutenant, Debbie Howard (also a GCC graduate), it was full throttle even though it meant months of volunteer hours sans compensation.

"I told Sgt. Lizarraga that it would be done on my own time," Anspach said. "He was very supportive, and when possible, he was very flexible in working with my schedule. I am single and that is why I was able to spend so much time with the class. I was there almost every day. Because I had to work the road, I couldn't be there on Tuesdays, although as a PT instructor, I was there on Sundays to conduct PT sessions, which I will continue to do starting next semester."

Anspach's class began with 22 students and graduated 14, including three cadets who

are applying at DPS.

"It was most satisfying to see them graduate," the DPS officer said. "It was gratifying watching the maturation and learning processes develop, knowing what they were about to experience – OC spray, long hours, long weekends, the heat and the physical training.

"When we finished, I felt like I had been through another academy. It takes a lot out of you, but I'd do it again although it won't be tomorrow. I learned a lot about how things go on the supervisory level which should be extremely beneficial when I enter the promotional testing process for sergeant."

That process just may let him see the Department from another new angle.

## Sting operation ...

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7](#)

injured, or even worse, killed."

Participating with DPS and the Chandler Police Department were personnel from the police departments in Phoenix, Gilbert and Mesa along with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office.

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## Letters

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### Dear Director Garrett:

The Maricopa County Attorney's Office, Investigations Division, is pursuing law enforcement accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

To meet certain CALEA standards, the Division sought the assistance of DPS. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was needed for certain evidence issues and our office contacted Todd Griffith to solicit his help. CALEA also mandated another MOU covering our communications access and we contacted Debbie Henry for this official document.

Mr. Griffith and Ms. Henry were professional throughout as they guided us in the process leading to the signing of the MOUs representing the best interests of our agency. Their understanding and expertise were invaluable and both should be recognized for their work.

The County Attorney's Office has completed its on-site assessment and CALEA representatives were complementary throughout their review of the issues related to the memorandum of understanding.

On behalf of the Maricopa County Attorney's Office, I commend Mr. Griffith and

Ms. Henry for their professionalism and their assistance in our pursuit of accreditation.

**Bill V. Amato**

**Special Assistant County Attorney**

### Dear Director Garrett:

On May 1, we had the good fortune to meet several DPS officers during an unfortunate incident.

At about 2:20 a.m., off-duty Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Deputy Doug Matteson was on his way home riding a motorcycle on U.S. 60. A speeding car, being driven erratically, struck Doug from behind, causing his bike to go down. The vehicle then fled the scene.

Doug was seriously injured and transported to the nearest level one hospital while your officers diligently investigated the scene and searched for the suspect. Unbeknownst to them, Doug's injury would necessitate the amputation of the lower half of his left leg.

DPS Officer Steve Svestka responded to a call by the Mesa Police Department helicopter of a possible suspect vehicle in the area of Mesa Drive and U.S. 60. The vehicle identified by the helicopter proved to be a false lead, but Officer Svestka remained in

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 10](#)

## Letters

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

the area, trusting a gut feeling that something was amiss.

As he drove in the area, he heard the sound of metal grating the pavement and went to investigate. He saw the taillights of a vehicle pulling behind a carwash and followed it. He approached the scene, finding two males outside a car that matched the description of the suspect vehicle, trying to change a flat tire.

Damage to the vehicle was so great the two men were unable to position a jack under the vehicle. Officer Svestka ordered the men to the ground, but one refused to comply. After a few tense moments, repeated warnings brought the situation under control. Despite being by himself in a dark unfamiliar area, secluded from the view of passerbys, he confronted two men who fled the scene of a serious accident.

His courageous actions brought a successful conclusion to the case.

His professionalism and dedication to duty ensured a thorough investigation.

Officer Svestka further distinguished himself after working five hours beyond his scheduled shift on this investigation, he stopped at the hospital on his own time to check on the deputy he never met, and to provide comfort to the deputy's family.

Officer Svestka's selflessness and compassionate actions, as well as those of every DPS officer who responded to the scene, reflect great credit upon DPS and the law enforcement profession.

**Larry Black, Deputy Chief**  
**MCSO Patrol Bureau**

### Dear Director Garrett:

DPS was recognized and exemplified with the response from Highway Patrol Officer Bernard Stefaniak on May 6 during the annual Navajo Nation Justice and Law Day at the Dilkon Community School.

There were multiple programs represented at this annual event. Our department was very pleased to have one of your officers respond and attend the event.

Officer Stefaniak exemplified outstanding character to the young children and community members who met him. It was remarkable to hear a young boy, who must have been about six years old, say "I want to be like you, a Highway Patrol officer on the reservation."

**Ronni Wauneka, Commander**  
**Dilkon Police District**

### Dear Director Garrett:

On April 16, I had the pleasure of meeting Officer Richard Griever when he stopped me on I-40 for speeding. He was certainly in the right to issue a citation as I was exceeding the speed limit.

Officer Griever could have given the expected lecture and been rather unpleasant, but instead, he discussed the matter in a very civil manner which more than accomplished his goal of eliminating a traffic violator. Because of his attitude, I found myself embarrassed and rather disturbed that I was hurrying when there really wasn't any need.

Not only did I put the car on cruise control, but I also have made it a point since to not exceed the speed limit.

Enclosed is a check for \$100 as a donation to the Arizona Highway Patrolmen Association. I am assuming this group provides benefits to patrolmen who have died in the line of duty.

Since most of us only meet policemen when we violate a traffic law, we develop our opinions from that experience. When an officer performs in the manner performed by Officer Griever, it leaves us with a very good feeling about the people who perform this difficult task. He is a credit to Arizona.

**Eugene Fox**  
**Fullerton, CA**

### Dear Director Garrett:

I was recently stopped while driving through Globe on my way to Safford. While not happy about being stopped, I wanted to tell you how pleasant and professional Officer Christopher Vargas was.

It is officers such as these who give law enforcement a good name.

**Greta Maub**  
**Safford**

### Dear Director Garrett:

On the evening of May 6 I became stranded on I-19, just north of Nogales.

Within minutes, I flagged down a DPS officer and requested his assistance in arranging for a taxi. At some point in the conversation, after a conversation with his dispatcher, the officer indicated "today's your lucky day" and that he would be "handing me off" to another officer out of Nogales.

Understand, because of the heavy border activity in the area, I had some heightened concerns of spending the night on the side of the road. Yet, due to the efforts of these two officers, I was delivered to a motel in Nogales, less than an hour after the vehicle broke down.

The two modestly identified themselves as Officers Andrew Shurtz and Dave Owczarak. My experience indicates both

officers exemplify the concept of DPS and deserve commendation.

**Kelly Thrower**  
**Phoenix**

## DPS kin ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

We also ask employees to provide their name, assignment at DPS, and location within the state.

Currently, the *Digest* is aware of only one DPS employee who has a child currently on active military duty, but we are certain there are many more.

That employee is DPS Officer Michael Contreras, a Highway Patrol officer in Bullhead City.

Michael's 19 year-old son, Aaron, is currently serving in Iraq with the U.S. Marines. He arrived in Iraq this spring.

Michael, a 23-year DPS veteran, and Aaron's mother, Kathy Mejia, hope the DPS family can keep them in their prayers as they worry daily about their son.

The *Digest* can be contacted by telephone with information about a child on active military duty at (602) 223-2313. Information can also be sent through Interdepartmental electronic mail by addressing EMS messages to Art Coughanour, badge number 3131. Public e-mails to the Digest should be sent to [acoughanour@dps.state.az.us](mailto:acoughanour@dps.state.az.us). Interdepartmental mail should go to The Digest, Mail Drop 1200, or P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005.

## Crash kills 4 people

Tire failure was blamed in a crash that claimed the lives of four people June 13 on Interstate 10 near the Sacaton rest area.

The four victims were in a southbound 15-passenger van, said Highway Patrol Officer David Callister. Callister said the blow-out caused the shuttle van to swerve before it went off the interstate and rolled.



## Inside DPS

### 20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Aguilera, Officer George A., 3386

Daily, Officer Linda M., 3398

Diaz, Officer Christopher H., 3390

Gresly, Officer Julia L., 3392

Hardt, Sgt. Robert P., 3393

Hicks, Melinda L., 3405, Office Coordinator

Jeter, Officer Jeffrey L., 3394

Macias, Officer Michael R., 3397

Pope, Officer Floyd A., 3401

Stein, Sgt. Diana M., 3388

Youngberg, Sgt. Leland D., 3404

### PROMOTIONS

Barber, John D., 3673, from Officer to Sergeant I

Bogs, A. Robert, 3608, from Maintenance Facilities Technician to Lead Maintenance Facilities Technician

Forch, Paul M., 4378, from Officer to Sergeant I

Harrison, Stephen M., 5080, from Officer to Sergeant I

Jex, Kevin J., 4162, from Officer to Sergeant I

Markwell, Sheila J., 3190, from Officer to Sergeant I

Ortolano, John J., 5439, from Officer to Sergeant I

Ransom, Michael L., 3953, from Officer to Sergeant I

Romero, Christopher R., 4297, from Officer to Sergeant I

Webb, J. Wayde, 4891, from Officer to Sergeant I

Wood, Kevin C., 2613, from Officer to Sergeant I

### TRANSFERS

Barber, John D., 3673, Sergeant I, from Commercial Vehicles Enforcement to HP D-2, Williams

Forch, Paul M., 4378, Sergeant, from Phoenix Interdiction to HP Metro Central

Harrison, Stephen M., 5080, Sergeant I, from Special Operations Unit to Vehicular Crimes/Collision Analysis Unit

Jex, Kevin J., 4162, Sergeant I, from Phoenix Interdiction to HP D-4 Parker

Markwell, Sheila J., 3190, Sergeant I, from Asset Forfeiture to HP Metro East

Ransom, Michael L., 3953, Sergeant I from HP

Metro Central to HP D-3, Holbrook

Romero, Christopher R., 4297, Sergeant I, from Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Central West to Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Nogales

Wood, Kevin C., 2613, Sergeant I, from Special Investigations Unit to Tucson GITEM.

### NEW EMPLOYEES

Hamilton, Michael J., 6355, Aircraft Mechanic

Hilbert, Michael C., 6323, Custodian

Knutson-Snyder, Misty M., 6357, Police Communications Dispatcher

Lane, Lori Ann, 6322, Office Coordinator

Raymond, Staci R., 6379, Criminalist I

Roe, David R., 6359, Generator Technician

Tenney, Bradford G., 6358, Security Officer

Townes, Heather L., 6380, Laboratory Technician

### RETIREMENTS

Boland, Richard, 1797, Security Supervisor, 28 years

Flores, Greg C., 4377, Officer, 14 years

Huish, Jon C., 2840, Telecommunications Supervisor, 23 years

Kehowski, Judith K., 1912, Administrative Supervisor, 28 years

Martin, Jo A., 4255, Administrative Secretary, 15 years

### DEPARTURES

Acosta, Benjamin, 6360, Cadet Officer

Bailey, Michael D., 6377, Cadet Officer

Burkenbine, P. Jay, 1881, Telecommunications Supervisor

Figol, Felicia L., 5360, Officer

Lapre, Christopher J., 6159, Officer

Moore, Philip L., 6367, Cadet Officer

Powell, Jason W., 6198, Officer

Reeves, Paul C., 5316, Training Specialist

Statham, Clark J., 5848, Personal Computer Specialist

White, Christopher C., 5093, Officer

Williams, Scott R., 6024, Officer

### BIRTHS

Katie Ann Watlington – 9 lbs. 20 inches. Born May 24 at Lake Havasu Regional Medical Center, Lake Havasu City, to Officer John W. Watlington and wife, Kim. John is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to Quartzsite.

Katie Lou Barr – 6 lbs., 7 oz., 19 1/4 inches. Born May 24 at Banner Thunderbird Samaritan Hospi-

tal to Jeremy Barr and his wife, Kelli. Jeremy is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to District 12, Camp Verde.

Sutton Troy Cobb – 8 lbs. 2 oz. 20 inches. Born May 23 at Summerlin Hospital, Las Vegas, to Officer Sherman Cobb and wife, Sonia. Sherman is a Highway Patrol officer assigned to District 1, St. George.

### OBITUARIES

Theresa Drummond McCullough passed away in Phoenix on May 13. She was the sister of DPS Officer Pete Drummond, Governor's Protection Detail, and daughter of Helen Drummond, an administrative services officer assigned to Asset Forfeiture.

Gina Croff, 41, passed away in Sierra Vista on May 26. She was the wife of Sierra Vista Highway Patrol Officer Brent Croff.

Leland "Lee" Rinberger, 68, of Tempe, passed away June 1 in Tempe. He was the husband of Ann Rinberger who left DPS in 2002 as an administrative secretary.

Robert M. Bresnahan Sr., 78, of Sun City passed away June 7. He was the father of Fixed Wing Pilot Robert Bresnahan.

Deidre Ann Johnson, 39, of Scottsdale, passed away June 8. She was the sister of Eileen Johnson, a fingerprint technician assigned to the AZAFIS Fingerprint Unit.

Cody D. Meckstroth of Queen Creek passed away June 21. He was the step son of Lt. Terry DeBoer of the Director's Office.

## DPS motor officer escapes serious injuries in crash

DPS Motor Officer Chris Despain escaped serious injuries June 17 when his motorcycle collided with the vehicle he was pursuing.

Despain, a 6-year veteran with the Department, was tossed over the car upon impact and suffered a concussion, scratches and bruises during the crash on Loop 101 near Thomas Road in the far west Phoenix valley.

After the crash, two of the three occupants in the vehicle tried to flee on foot, but were caught and wrestled to the ground by witnesses who detained the suspects until the arrival of other DPS officers.

The three suspects were charged with aggravated assault and auto theft.

## Former GITEM officer dies

Paul Esparza, 44, a lieutenant with the El Mirage Police Department passed away June 3. During his law enforcement career, Lt. Esparza completed an assignment at DPS as a GITEM officer.



## Sworn pay ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Lane said the \$4.3 million for sworns' pay comes without "strings attached," and can be distributed by the agency as it sees fit upon approval from the Law Enforcement Merit System Council.

The Department finalized a plan for sworn pay adjustments in early June and forwarded it to the Merit System Council which approved it during its June meeting.

Effective July 1, the plan calls for \$1,000 per year salary increases for commanders, motor carrier supervisors, rotary wing pilots and officer I's. Sergeant II's are slated to receive an annual pay hike of \$5,148 while sergeant I's will get a pay increase of \$4,782. Lieutenants will see their salary jump \$4,461 per year while officer III's are scheduled for \$4,215 annual salary increases. Officer II's are earmarked for a \$1,665 salary hike.

DPS Comptroller Phil Case said the Department's plan moves sworn salaries toward an equal percentage relative to market and ensures a minimum increase of \$1,000 for each pay level which matches raises all civilian employees received effective July 1.

"The pay increases fall far short of our ultimate goal," Case said in an e-mail to all departmental employees. "With the help of employees and employee groups, the Department will continue to pursue additional funding to make sworn salaries more competitive and to equalize salaries relative to market."

Concerning salaries on the civilian side, the Legislature approved the formation of a 19-person committee to study state employee compensation and to make recommendations by Dec. 1 of each year.

The legislation also calls for the state Department of Administration to conduct an annual salary market analysis and recommend salary adjustments relating to the labor market for merit pay raises and performance pay increases.

Sponsor of this bill was Sen. Jay Tibshraeney, R-Chandler, who was "adamant about getting this bill passed."

"He is a staunch supporter of making sure that state employee compensation levels are brought up to appropriate standards," Lane said. "This was a major issue with him. I believe one of the reasons he voted against the budget bill was because he thought state employees were being under compensated."

"He is trying to put together a five-year plan to place all state employees to within five percent of market. Studies completed by DPS and DOA obviously show that we are tremendously behind market, and he would like to see that corrected."



## Who is he?

Although cute as little boy especially when cuddling with his dog, it's probably best not to describe him that way today. Who is he?

Identify this retired officer correctly and you will be eligible to win a polo shirt courtesy of the Associated Highway Patrolmen of Arizona (AHPA).

Interdepartmental e-mail entries should be addressed to Art Coughanour, badge number 3131.

Internet entries should be sent to [acoughanour@dps.state.az.us](mailto:acoughanour@dps.state.az.us).

Interdepartmental mail should go to The Digest, P.O. Box 6638, Phoenix, AZ 85005.

## May Winner

Sally Loveland, an administrative supervisor assigned to Logistics, was the only one to identify the little boy in a firefighter's helmet as Davis Coughanour, a Highway Patrol officer in Wickenburg. For her winning efforts, Sally received a polo shirt from the AHPA.

## DPS participates in Davis-Monthan Air Force Base event

Several DPS officers assigned to the Tucson-area recently participated in the first National Police Week at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base May 15.

Officer Debra Morrett represented the Highway Patrol Bureau at the event while Officers David Kleinman and David Romero represented the Special Operations Unit.

Officer Jimmie Wade represented the Explosive Ordnance Unit while Pilot Jon Jonas and Paramedic Bruce Harrolle represented Air Rescue.

Civilian Reserve Frank Cuen was also on hand at the event to talk about the Department's Motorist Assist program.

Also participating in the inaugural "Cops and Community Festival" were personnel from the Governor's Office of Highway Safety and personnel representing 11 law enforcement agencies.

The event provided bike safety demonstrations, child seat installation demonstrations, home security information as well as seat belt awareness demonstrations featuring the DPS rollover simulator.

## Rudy Mellmann ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Mr. Mellmann was a member of the American Polygraph Association and was a recipient of the APA's Professional Service Award. He twice served as president of the Arizona Polygraph Association and was a member of the American Association of Police Polygraphers.

When Mr. Mellmann came to DPS, he brought along a \$5,000 computerized polygraph test which could interface with polygraph equipment. He was the first commercial examiner in the country to have the program, which at that time had been available only to the Secret Service.

Mr. Mellmann said he used the equipment only to develop a "second opinion" as to whether the person being tested was being deceptive.

Prior to coming to the western U.S., Mr. Mellmann attended college in New Hampshire. He received his polygraph examiner license after completing a school in San Diego.

Survivors include his wife Connie; son Paul; four grandchildren; two sisters; and stepson Joshua.

He was preceded in death by his first wife Nancy.

## New laws ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

council, money was still going statutorily into the Abatement Council's fund even though the council no longer existed.

Re-establishment of the council, however, came with some changes as DPS and the Governor's Office of Highway Safety no longer have voting representatives sitting on the board of directors. Instead, DPS and GOHS representatives will serve the board in an advisory capacity although the bill also expanded the number of board members from five to seven.

"This is something we will watch closely," Lane emphasized. "Considering that DPS and GOHS are probably the biggest advocates of DUI enforcement, we want to make sure that our requests are recognized, especially for the crime lab's support toward the breath alcohol program which is a really significant statewide program."

Lane explained that some legislators believed that it would be a conflict of interest for DPS and GOHS to sit on a board responsible for administering grants, some of which go to these two agencies.

"I am hopeful that we eventually will become a voting member again," Lane said.

The parking bill (HB2492) forbids home owners' associations (HOA's) from prohibiting on-street or driveway parking of a vehicle used by a resident for emergency deployment. The legislation also says that the vehicle must bear an official insignia and is subject to some weight restrictions.

"Apparently, there had been some HOA's that implemented rules involving vehicles with any types of markings," Lane explained. "Some associations wanted the vehicles parked in off-site storage areas. Of course, this impacts our officers with take-home vehicles for a variety of reasons, including responding to emergencies. There also are security issues involved because of the equipment that some officers have inside their take-home vehicles."

Lane said the Department also plans to closely monitor the impact of the new operating hours liquor establishments now enjoying thanks to HP2570.

Under the new law, closing time for bars and other establishments serving alcoholic beverages has been extended to 2:30 a.m. from 1:15 a.m. This legislation also extended "last call" from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m.

"The governor's office has asked us to track it closely to see what impact it may have on the agency," Lane revealed. "Not only will there be issues as to whether we will see an increase in DUI arrests, we probably will face some scheduling challenges,

especially with our enhanced DUI enforcement patrols."

Lane said the bill passed with hopes of generating additional tax monies, making Arizona more attractive to those considering the state for conventions and/or conferences.

SB 1127 targets people who claim to be police officers when they are not.

"We have always had a statute against impersonating a law enforcement officer, but there are some bounty-hunter types and bonding agents who try to intimidate people by telling them they are law enforcement officers when they are not," Lane said. "This bill was supported by the Arizona Chiefs of Police Association. It's also a class 6 felony to impersonate a law enforcement officer."

Another statute (SB1247) requires law enforcement agencies to provide all investigative information to employees facing internal disciplinary action so the information can be used in their defense.

"At DPS, we have been doing this for several years," Lane stated. "Apparently, some agencies were less than forthright in providing employees vital information such as witness names, appropriate records and copies of the actual report and accusation."

"The Department has always tried to be very open in providing such information to our employees. We also have an appeals process in place through the Law Enforcement Merit System Council."

With SB1345, Lane said the state is mirroring a federal statute. The statute gives law enforcement officers in Arizona authority to enforce weapons laws among illegal immigrants instead of depending on federal agents to file such charges.

"At first, this was a controversial bill, but when we pointed out that many illegal immigrants were armed and were involved in the transportation and distribution of narcotics and the smuggling of humans, it started gaining the needed support," the DPS liaison officer said.

"This bill has little to do with the gunfight on the Interstate 10 a few months ago which resulted in the deaths of several 'coyotes.' This bill came out of a concern for law enforcement officers dealing with stash houses being used as staging areas for drugs and/or illegal immigrants. In many cases, these stash houses were being guarded by armed illegal immigrants."

"This bill also allows law enforcement officers to charge illegal immigrants as prohibited possessors whereas before state, county and municipal law enforcement officers had to solicit a federal officer to make the charge under federal statutes."

A final piece of legislation passed at the

last minute by the legislature provides the state Attorney General's Office with authority to seek civil action against those involved in the smuggling of illegal immigrants.

"Basically, HB 2091 allows law enforcement to civilly start going after the assets of people who profit from the smuggling of illegals into Arizona," Lane said. "This new statute will allow law enforcement to civilly pursue, under statutes similar to RICO, the assets of those running illegals into the state. This could result in the state seizing millions of dollars."

"It's a civil action only. They will be going after the people behind the scenes – the big money guys, not the illegals. The Attorney General's Office wants to impact those who profit from the wholesale smuggling of people, not to mention the increasing number of deaths associated with this 'market.'"

"The intent of this legislation is to strictly go after the people who actually set up and conduct these illegal operations."

## J.T. Haynes ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ber of the El Zaribah Shriners.

He is survived by his wife Sandra, five children, seven grandchildren and two sisters.

In his memory, the family requests contributions to the Hospice of the Valley, 1510 E. Flower, Phoenix, AZ 85014, or to a favorite charity.





## Pay raises ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

funding to make our sworn salaries more competitive and to completely equalize salaries relative to market."

The \$1,000 approved for civilian employees, effective July 1, was the first salary adjustment in about two years. The raise represents an increase of about \$38 per pay period for each civilian employee at the Department.

"Certainly, the pay adjustments, while not being nearly as much as we believe necessary, were nice to get because our employees have essentially gone two years without an increase," Case said. "On the sworn side, we hope this is the first of a multi-year set of adjustments. We are also hopeful that those at the Legislature studying civilian pay issues will recognize similar disparities for future consideration."

The agency's general operating budget passed during the 2nd regular session of the 46<sup>th</sup> state Legislature is part of a \$7.35 billion budget package sent to Gov. Janet Napolitano for her signature.

Although DPS' budget fell short in regards to employee compensation issues, Case said it does address some critical needs.

The DPS comptroller said the new general operating budget provides funding for 16 new officer positions (including two sergeants positions), as many as 190 new Highway Patrol vehicles, radio maintenance, replacement equipment for the Crime Laboratory, the lease/purchase of a new helicopter and some new funding for the Sex Offenders Compliance program.

The Department also received funding for remote officer housing in its fiscal year 2005 appropriation.

"Although we were granted 16 new officer positions, the Legislature did not allow for support personnel," Case said. "However, it is the first time in recent years that the Legislature has appropriated actual sergeant positions. We are pleased that they acknowledged our need for proper supervision of additional officer positions, but disappointed in that support personnel wasn't part of the package."

Along with the new officer positions, the Legislature granted the Department \$6.8 million for the purchase of patrol cars.

"We received a healthy budget for the replacement of Highway Patrol vehicles," Case said. "With this money, we believe we will be able to purchase at least 190 patrol vehicles. We also sought another \$5 million for replacement vehicles outside the Highway Patrol, but that request was not approved.

"In the past 14 years, with a few minor exceptions, we have received very little funding for vehicles outside the Highway Patrol."

Case explained that the Department also received \$1.4 million for maintenance on the existing DPS radio communications system and coupled with its base budget of \$600,000, Telecommunications now has a FY 2005 budget of about \$2 million for radio equipment and infrastructure.

"The \$1.4 million is a substantial amount of money and will be used for the replacement of some towers and improvements to tower support buildings," Case said, adding that the Department also is receiving \$1.2 million to upgrade equipment within the Arizona Criminal Justice Information System (ACJIS).

"This will allow ACJIS to upgrade to digital equipment which will comply with National Crime Information Center standards," the DPS comptroller revealed, adding that the Department is responsible for maintaining ACJIS.

The DPS Crime Laboratory received \$566,900 to replace some outdated equipment.

"We were appropriated the same amount for fiscal year 2004, but we couldn't spend it because revenues behind that appropriation didn't materialize. So we were able to purchase only about \$100,000 worth of new lab equipment," Case related. "Hopefully, the dollars behind this year's appropriation will materialize and the Crime Lab will be able to purchase some much-needed equipment."

Case conveyed that the Department received \$764,900 for a replacement helicopter to be obtained through a three-year lease/purchase agreement.

"Once completed, this means we will have replaced four of our five helicopters in the last seven years, leaving us with only one more to replace," the DPS comptroller explained.

The Legislature also approved \$360,000 for remote officer housing.

"This will essentially fund three units," Case said. "Originally, we were earmarking all the money for Ajo, but that is under review. Undoubtedly, some of that money will go for remote housing in Ajo."

The Legislature also repealed a sex offender registration \$100 fee and replaced it with a one-time \$250 assessment on persons required to register with law enforcement after being convicted of certain sex-related crimes. Proceeds will go into the Sex Offender Monitoring Fund administered by the Sex Offender Compliance unit at DPS.

It is the latest in a series of moves that began in fiscal year 2003 to develop financial support for the unit. In FY 2003, DPS

received an appropriation of \$340,000 to run the Sex Offender Compliance unit.

"This fiscal year, the Legislature conducted an experiment where they stripped the general fund appropriation and had us charge sex offenders an annual fee of \$100 to cover costs," Case said.

"We were somewhat surprised that this plan generated about \$340,000, but it wasn't enough to effectively run the unit," Case said. "We believe that it takes about \$500,000 annually for this unit to run effectively.

"What the Legislature did for FY 2005 was to provide \$250,000 in general funds and assess each sex offender a \$250 fee upon conviction. It will be a one time fee to be deposited in a fund that eventually will be appropriated to the unit.

"It is still up in the air how much money this will generate and how much money the unit will actually need to operate."

## Patriotic hallway ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spirit and energy in what would otherwise be undistinguished indoor space.

Much of the fascination with the hallway and its decorations, though, comes from the fact that a few of the U.S. flags hanging in the hallway don't have 50 stars. That's right, one flag in the hallway is an authentic 48-star flag while another is an original 49-star flag.

The rare 48- and 49-star flags were lent to Neagles by a friend who acquired them years ago at garage sales.

Both of the aging flags are somewhat discolored and contain water stains yet both "Old Glories" seem to be the most appreciated flags in the hallway.

Neagles and her friend who acquired the old flags have no plans to have these flags restored.

"We want to keep all of the flags in their original condition to maintain their integrity," said Neagles, who also has a flag hanging in the hallway that was given to her late husband for his service in the U.S. Air Force.

Neagles said that every person who has observed the hallway flag display has had positive things to say about it, especially those seeing it for the first time.

"Most people who see the display for the first time are very surprised," Neagles said.

If you haven't had a chance to see the flag display, don't panic. Neagles said the display will remain until Sept. 11.

The display was initially put up by Neagles a few months ago to honor what were upcoming national events such as Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, and the anniversary of Sept. 11.



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## Down the Highways

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**July 1964**

Eight people burned to death July 14 in a fiery, 13-car pileup on S.R. 84, one mile north of Red Rock. Twenty-five others were injured in the crash which occurred at about 6:30 p.m. during a blinding sandstorm driven by winds up to 70 mph.

Arizona Highway Patrol Officer Bob Eldridge of Tucson said the pileup on the main highway linking Tucson and Phoenix occurred when a car suddenly slowed and was struck by a following tractor-trailer rig.

**July 1969**

On July 1, those telephoning the Arizona Highway Patrol were greeted with "Hello, this is the Arizona Department of Public Safety."

On June 30, Arizona Gov. Jack Williams signed an executive order establishing DPS, effective midnight July 1, and naming James J. Hegarty director. Two days later, Williams appointed Col. Lloyd Robertson as superintendent of the Highway Patrol and Carl Needham of the Phoenix Police Department as chief of the Criminal Investigation Division.

**July 1979**

DPS Officer Mike McCampbell of the Crime Resistance Unit was elected president

of the Arizona Crime Prevention Officers Association (ACPOA) during the group's quarterly meeting in Flagstaff July 20.

ACPOA is a statewide organization consisting of representatives from 30 police agencies with a primary goal of training and educating police officers in presenting information to the public on crime prevention.

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Jerry Bowers, a DPS officer assigned to Auto Theft, was appointed Arizona regional director of the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators during its annual seminar July 29 in Denver.

In this capacity, Bowers will coordinate Arizona's law enforcement auto theft activities with all member states and countries.

**July 1989**

After nearly two months of persistent rumors, Arizona Gov. Rose Mofford made it official July 13 by announcing the appointment of DPS Director Ralph T. Milstead to a cabinet-level post.

During the same news conference in the Governor's Office conference room, Mofford announced the appointment of Rick Ayars as Milstead's successor. Both appointments, she said, become effective Aug. 1.

**July 1994**

DPS Director Rick Ayars promoted three lieutenants to captain and eight sergeants to lieutenant during a ceremony July 29 in Phoenix.

Promoted to captain were David Felix, David Gonzales and Jeff Resler.

Promoted to lieutenant were Rick Knight, Tim Lane, Debra Howard, Jack Wilson, Roger Vanderpool, Gary Zimmerman, Dave Denlinger and Iven Wooten.

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As president of the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications Systems (NLETS), Richard Carlson believes the organization's most significant challenges may involve expanding its technological abilities while increasing its scope of responsibilities.

Carlson, assistant director of the Service Bureau at DPS, was elected to the president's post by the organization's membership during its national conference July 4-6 in Nashville.

An NLETS member for 15 years, Carlson also served two years the group's first vice president and two years as its second vice president.